

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2006

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
303 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Spratt
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:

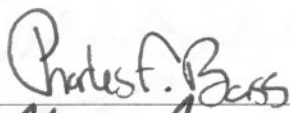
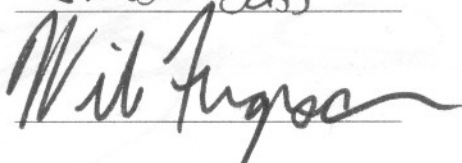
In 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted into law to ensure that students with disabilities received the quality education that they both need and deserve. With this legislation came a promise to federally fund 40 percent of special education costs, a promise that still has yet to be honored. For nearly 30 years, this lack of adequate federal funding has unfairly burdened local school districts and taxpayers struggling to meet the educational needs of all students, including a growing number of students with disabilities.

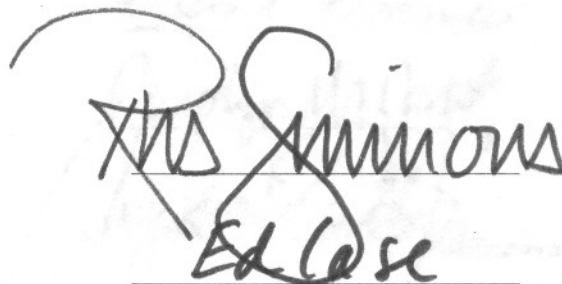
In 2004, the House of Representatives approved and the President enacted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, establishing a concrete timetable of incremental funding increases in order to obtain the full 40 percent of promised federal funding for special education by Fiscal Year 2011. This commitment was agreed to by an overwhelming majority of both the House and the Senate, and yet we were still unable to meet the goal we set for the first year of that timetable.

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2007 House Budget Resolution, please honor our commitment and include the \$16.94 billion authorized in this law for the Part B State Grants, thereby putting the federal government back on track to fully funding our share of IDEA costs. While we recognize the challenges and tough decisions that you face in the current fiscal climate, we believe that increasing IDEA funding enables our local communities to devote the scarce resources that are currently being spent to meet the unfunded federal requirements of the IDEA law to other areas of significant need. Even during this time of restrained spending, we must help ease the burden that this current unfunded mandate places on state and local budgets.

We look forward to working with you on this critical matter, and are hopeful that our efforts will afford our schools greater financial freedom and the local control necessary to best serve their students and communities.

Sincerely,



Wm. Lucy Clay

Mis Dyer

Rush Holt

Zanny Baldwin

Paul Dourine

Op. Ande

Jim Marshall

Dan Paul W. Bishop

Stenrod Brown

Don Dr. Per.

Earl Pomeroy

Jim Holden

Zoe Loff

Lynn C. Woolsey

Dunne

Bald

Bim Hesi

John Albion
William R. McHally

Donis O. Matsui

Ernest L. Enger

Arthur F. Fleming

Raymond L. Owens

Darlene Horley

John W. McHugh

Chris Smith

Saxton

Van Uden

Rod L. Platts

Diane Evans

Carolyn McCarthy

Stephen M. Hays

Sam Fan

Raul M. Hijalva

Marv Odell

Art B. —

Bob Filmer

~~Don't Kill Me on a Small~~

Betty McEllum

Loretta Sanchez

Ben Chandler

Dana DeLette

Craig

Michael M. Hunt

Craig

Jim / Kristin

Joe Schmidt.

Frank Pallant.

Albert R. Allen

Caryn B. Maloney

Edward K. Kohn

David Hadley

Sue Kelly

Bart Gordon

J. Warner

Judy Bisset

Danny K. Davis

C.A. Dutch Poppersberger

Grace S. Napolitano

Barbara Lee

Neg. Walsh

Rick Larsen

Tom Lantos

Tim Ryan

Madeline J. Randall

Michel H. Richard

Ed Whitford

Elijah E. Tummings

Ruben Horigosa

John F. Turner

Alan Smith

Gail Pini

Lawrence

R

Bob Scott

Pete King

Dennis J. Kuciric

John F. Fenn

Shelley Berkley

Ed Strickland

Jim Davis

Jim Leach

Frank A. Lombardo

Colin C. Coleman

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Al Ruffell

Linda J. Sincavage

F. J.

Stan Israel

Tom Orlan

John Longstaffe

Bar Cochran



Donald M. Payne

Jim M. Conant

Shelley Moore Caputo

Leonard L. Brown

William Delam

John T. Salazar

Rosa L. Delauro

W. L. L.

Ann Hingell

Nancy R. Johnson

W. L. L.

Signatories:**IDEA FY07 Funding Letter to Chairman Nussle, Ranking Member Spratt**

1. Charles F. Bass
2. Rob Simmons
3. Mike Ferguson
4. Ed Case
5. William Lacy Clay
6. Brian Higgins
7. Mike Doyle
8. Bob Etheridge
9. Rush Holt
10. Michael McNulty
11. Tammy Baldwin
12. Doris O. Matsui
13. Rick Boucher
14. Elliot L. Engel
15. Jay Inslee
16. Patrick F. Kennedy
17. Jim Marshall
18. Major R. Owens
19. Sanford Bishop
20. Darlene Hooley
21. Sherrod Brown
22. John M. McHugh
23. Sandy Levin
24. Chris Smith
25. Earl Pomeroy
26. Jim Saxton
27. James McGovern
28. Tom Udall
29. Zoe Lofgren
30. Todd R. Platts
31. Lynn Woolsey
32. Lane Evans
33. Dennis Moore
34. Carolyn McCarthy
35. Lincoln Davis
36. Stephanie Tubbs Jones
37. Sam Farr
38. Albert Wynn
39. Raul M. Grijalva
40. Carolyn B. Maloney
41. Mark Udall
42. Eleanor H. Norton
43. Silvestre Reyes

44. Jerrold Nadler
45. Bob Filner
46. Sue Kelly
47. Juanita Millender-McDonald
48. Bart Gordon
49. Betty McCollum
50. Jim Matheson
51. Loretta Sanchez
52. Judy Biggert
53. Ben Chandler
54. Danny K. Davis
55. Diana DeGette
56. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
57. Emmanuel Cleaver
58. Grace J. Napolitano
59. Michael Honda
60. Barbara Lee
61. Chris Shays
62. Greg Walden
63. Jim Ramstad
64. Rick Larsen
65. Joe Schwarz
66. Tom Lantos
67. Frank Pallone
68. Tim Ryan
69. Madeleine Bordallo
70. Shelley Berkley
71. Michael Michaud
72. Ted Strickland
73. Ed Whitfield
74. Jim Davis
75. Elijah E. Cummings
76. Jim Leach
77. Ruben Hinojosa
78. Frank A. LoBiondo
79. John F. Tierney
80. Collin C. Peterson
81. Adam Smith
82. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
83. David Price
84. Nick Rahall
85. Xavier Becerra
86. Linda Sanchez
87. Anthony Weiner
88. Timothy Johnson
89. Robert Scott

- 90. Steve Israel
- 91. Peter King
- 92. Tom Osborne
- 93. Dennis J. Kucinich
- 94. John Conyers
- 95. Gwen Moore
- 96. Ben Cardin
- 97. Donald M. Payne
- 98. Rosa L. DeLauro
- 99. Jim McDermott
- 100. Vic Snyder
- 101. Shelley Moore
- 102. John Dingell
- 103. Leonard Boswe
- 104. Nancy Johnson
- 105. William Delah
- 106. Maurice Hinch
- 107. John T. Salazar

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103. Leonard Boswell
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105. William Delahunt
106. Maurice Hinchey
107. John T. Salazar